GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:166
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2017
Extension of e-Visa Facility
Mahendran Shri C.

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has extended the facility of e-Tourist Visa Scheme for citizens of 161 Countries recently;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the scheme aims to tap the vast tourism potential of India;
(d) if so, the details thereof; and
(e) the criteria followed for issuing of such e-visa?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a): At present, the e-Tourist Visa Scheme is available for the citizens of 162 countries as informed by Ministry of Home Affairs vide their Circular No.488 dated 24.05.2017.

(b): The list of 162 countries is given at Annexure-I.

(c) to (e): Yes, Madam. The number of foreign tourists arrival (FTAs) in India has shown continuous increase in last three years. The number of FTAs in India during 2014, 2015 and 2016 are as under:
<pre>
2014 7.68 million
2015 8.03 million
2016 8.80 million
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This high growth may be attributed to introduction of e-Tourist Visa.

During the last two years 2015 and 2016, the foreign tourists visiting India under e-Tourist Visa Scheme have registered a growth of 142.5%.

As per information received from Ministry of Home Affairs, the criteria followed for issuing e-Visa are given at the Annexure-II.
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